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Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 PA-01 OIC-02 /127 W
----------071942 101239Z /53
R 101128Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1798
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ECE
SUBJECT: ECE - MEETING OF SPECIAL GROUP ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (TBAP)

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL GROUP ON TBAP MET JULY 3 AND 4. A QUESTIONNAIRE WAS APPROVED WHICH SECRETARIAT WILL CIRCULATE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REQUESTING BASIC INFORMATION ON AIR POLLUTION. RESPONSES WILL BE REQUESTED BY AUGUST 15, BUREAU OF SPECIAL GROUP WILL CONSIDER AND COLLATE THESE RESPONSES ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THIS WORK TO NEXT MEETING OF SPECIAL GROUP OCTOBER 2-4. SPECIAL GROUP WILL PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO SAEP AT THEIR OCTOBER 11-13 MEET. IN GENERAL, DELEGATIONS TOOK POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARD REACHING AGREEMENT AND THERE WERE NO MAJOR CONFLICTS. SOVIETS, AS EXPECTED, RESISTED PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POLLUTION SOURCES.
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2. PORTION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT 33RD SESSION OF ECE PERTINENT TO TBAP LISTS SIX PRINCIPAL ITEMS. SPECIAL GROUP QUESTIONAIRE IS LIMITED TO FIRST TWO ITEMS, NAMELY A) DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR COMBATTING AIR POLLUTION PLUS CERTAIN COST ESTIMATES AND, B) INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ON RESEARCH. ITEMS THUS

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OMITTED INCLUDE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND POSSIBLE FORM OF AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING TBAP. US DELEGATION STATED THAT IF ESTABLISHED DEADLINES ARE TO BE MET, ALL SIX POINTS OF ECE RESOLUTION MUST BE CONSIDERED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS POSITION SUPPORTED BY NORDICS AND CANADA BUT EC-9 AND SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR SEQUENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS PREVAILED. EC-9 PREFERENCE FOR SEQUENTIAL APPROACH PROBABLY IS DELAYING TACTIC WHILE SOVIETS WANTED TO AVOID POINT THREE OF ECE RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING NEW AND EXISTING SOURCES OF POLLUTION. EACH GOVERNMENT IT REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESPONSES TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN ECE GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS TO SECRETARIAT. WE PROVIDED NAME OF HERBERT SPIELMAN (OES/ENP/EN) AS RECIPIENT OF THESE RESPONSES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND PRESENTED A NORDIC DRAFT FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE REDUCTION OF TBAP. THE EC-9 DID NOT CHALLENGE THE CONCEPT OF A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TBAP THEREFORE APPARENTLY ACCEPTING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A CONVENTION. THE SPECIAL GROUP AGREED TO INVITE ECE GOVERNMENTS TO COMMENT ON THIS DRAFT AND SUGGESTED THAT DELEGATIONS TO THE OCTOBER 2-4 SPECIAL GROUP MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE LEGAL EXPERTS. THIS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT CIRCUMVENTS THE LIMITATIONS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WERE NOTED ABOVE.
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4. SOVIETS ACTIVELY RESISTED ANY NOTIONS OR PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF EMISSIONS OR DATA ON CONCENTRATIONS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS. AT THEIR DEMAND, ITEM IN QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEW AND EXISTING SOURCES OF POLLUTION WAS OMITTED. SOVIET DELEGATE STATED OOMAT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF TBAP DID NOT REQUIRE INFORMATION FROM GOVERNMENTS ON SPECIFIC NATIONAL SOURCES OF EMISSION; IT WOULD SUFFICE TO CONSIDER ONLY FLOWS ACROSS BORDERS INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY. STATED ANOTHER WAY, THE SOVIETS WILL APPARENTLY ACCEPT POLLUTION MONITORING STATIONS ON THEIR BORDERS BUT NOT IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. THE FRG, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9, CHALLENGED THIS POSITION AND STATED THAT THE SUCCESS OF A HLM WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE WILLINGNESS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF POLLUTION. NORWAY CHALLENGED THAT ASSERTION STATING THAT THE SUCCESS OF A HLM WILL DEPEND ON THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO SOLVE THE POLLUTION PROBLEM. THE US DELEGATION DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS MATTER.

5. TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED PRIOR

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TO THE NEXT SPECIAL GROUP MEETING. FIRST, THE NORDIC
DRAFT FRAMEWORK CONVENTION MUST RECEIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION
FROM APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS. IT REPRESENTS
A SERIOUS AND CONSIDERED EFFORT TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE
FORMULA TO BEGIN WORKING ON A REDUCTION OF TBAP AND
WE MUST BE PREPARED TO COMMENT CONSTRUCTIVELY AND
KNOWLEDGEABLY ON THIS DOCUMENT. SECONDLY, IF WE ARE TO
PRESSURE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE DETAILED EMISSIONS
INFORMATION, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT SOLIDLY
DOCUMENTED CASE TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT THIS TYPE OF
INFORMATION IS NECESSARY AND THAT INFORMATION ON FLOWS
ACROSS BORDERS IN INADEQUATE. IN ADDITION TO THE
LARGER POLITICAL ISSUES IN USA-USSR RELATIONS, WE MUST

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ALSO CONSIDER AFFECT ON PRESENT USSR PARTICIPATION IN
THE ECE PROGRAM TO MONITOR LONG-RANGE AIR POLLUTION AND
OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AREA.

6. SOVIET CONDUCT AT THIS MEETING MUST BE DESCRIBED AS
CONSTRUCTIVE EXCEPT ON QUESTION OF PROVIDING INFORMATION.
THEY PLAYED LOW KEY ROLE WHILE NORDICS, ESPECIALLY
NORWAY, TOOK LEAD IN MAKING THIS A SUCCESSFUL AND
PRODUCTIVE MEETING.

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7. MISSION APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF DR. WILLIAM WILSON
WHOSE KNOWLEDGE IN THIS AREA MADE HIM EMINENTLY
QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT USA. WE HOPE HE WILL BE DESIGNATED
TO REPRESENT THE USA IN FUTURE MEETINGS WHERE TBAP
BEING CONSIDERED.VANDEN HEUVEL

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